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School Property Tax Control Board Meeting Minutes July 21, 2005

The monthly meeting of the School Property Tax Control Board was held on July 21, 2005. The meeting was held in the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room 2, 302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Present for the meeting was Patty Bond, Chuck Nemeth, Dave Bowen, Ken Barnes, Joe Bronnert, Kurt Barrow and Teresa Hemmerle, Administrative Officer.

Minutes and Discussion: June 23, 2005 meeting minutes.

Anderson Community School Corporation, Madison County: Officials requested approval of a pension bond issue in the amount of \$35,510,000. The term of the bond is 25 years. The tax rate impact of the pension bond issue is \$0.1346. The resolution adopted on May 17, 2005 states the Capital Projects and/or Bus Replacement funds will be reduced to offset the debt, but officials estimate 100% of the debt service for 2006 will be offset in the Capital Projects fund.

Present for the hearing was Dr. Tim Long, Superintendent; Kevin Brown, Business Manager; Chuck Rubright, School Attorney; Doug Cassman, Educational Services Company; Sid Baker, City Securities and Karl Sturbaum, Bose McKinney & Evans.

Comments: The Superintendent spoke about the proposed pension bond issue. He began by correcting the date of the order to approve the first pension bond issue on page 3 of the hearing information sheet. The date should have been reported as October 8, 2002. Officials are returning to request an additional bond issue to eliminate their unfunded liability.

Mr. Bronnert asked if negotiations were complete and will this eliminate the unfunded liability. School officials said they will buy out the Social Security bridge health plan and severance payment. There will still be some accumulated sick day benefit outstanding. The Superintendent said they were happy with the way negotiations turned out and feels the school corporation is heading in the right direction.

Ms. Bond asked what fund would be reduced to offset the pension debt and the Superintendent replied Capital Projects fund. Ms. Bond asked if the DLGF has received the resolution and Ms. Hemmerle confirmed that it had been received.

Mr. Bronnert asked about the condition of the buildings in the school district. The Superintendent said they have closed 12 elementary schools and outside buildings and have constructed three new elementary schools. The two high schools are set to be remodeled this

year. They are in good shape as far as the condition of their buildings is concerned. The previous building projects fell below the standards set forth by the guidance in the area of cost per square foot. The needs have decreased for the Capital Projects fund because of updating facilities. School officials are also attempting to get some private funds to assist with building maintenance.

Mr. Nemeth asked how officials would raise private funds. The Superintendent said there is a program called Invest in Anderson that allows local companies to dedicate funds for school projects. This provides an incentive for the community to shop locally.

Mr. Barnes asked if this issue was within the parameters of the new law. The Superintendent replied yes.

Motion: Mr. Barnes made a motion to approve a pension bond issue in the amount of \$35,510,000. Mr. Nemeth seconded the motion, which favorably carried 5-0-1. Mr. Barrow abstained from the vote due to late arrival.

Northeastern Wayne School Corporation, Wayne County: Officials requested approval of a lease rental agreement with maximum annual payments of \$1,100,000 for 25 years. Total project costs are \$11,586,000. The tax rate impact of the project is estimated at \$0.36, but all of the school's current debt pays off in 2008 so the net impact is zero. The common construction wage information indicated the Governor's Representative abstained from the vote and it passed 4-0-1. There was no application for a petition and remonstrance process.

Present for the hearing was Steve Bailey, Superintendent; Idris Bond, School Board member; Walt Chidester, School Attorney; Ed Soots, LW Clinton; Jim Elizondo, City Securities and Jim Shanahan, Jane Herndon, Andy Hollenbeck and Tyler Kavachnik, Ice Miller.

Project: The existing Northeastern Jr./Sr. High School building was completed in 1967 and has had only minor alterations since that time. Considering the age of the building and the educational changes that have taken place over the last four decades, improvements to the facility were deemed desirable and necessary by the school corporation board and administration. The only current debt is on their elementary school and is scheduled to retire completely in 2008. With the elimination of this debt, there was the opportunity to incur new debt with little or no tax rate increase. The school corporation saw this as the time to pursue long awaited improvements to the Jr./Sr. high school facility.

The proposed project would add 30,940 square feet of building to the west side of the existing structure and would give the building an entirely new front appearance and defined entrance. In addition, it provides a means for separating the 7th and 8th grade classroom areas from the high school areas. The existing building will receive some remodeling to create classroom space, upgraded finishes and fixtures for selected spaces, and air conditioning for all but the industrial technology and gym/locker room areas.

Addition:

The addition includes five classrooms, a new defined entrance, an administrative area, a physical conditioning space, and an auxiliary gym and locker rooms primarily for the junior high students.

1. The existing administration area is extremely small and would be buried within the building by the addition if left in place. It was decided that it served the project better to free up the existing administration area to create educational space, and move the new administration area to the addition for better security and service. This area contains the basic spaces essential for administrative and guidance functions.
2. The addition also includes a Mildly Mentally Disabled classroom and Occupational Therapy room which replaces severely undersized and inadequate facilities.
3. Two general classrooms and two science classrooms will serve grades 7 and 8, and are arranged to be an extension of existing junior high classrooms.
4. An auxiliary gym and two small locker rooms will be used for P.E. functions, serving primarily 7th and 8th grade. The gym is sized to accommodate one full size basketball court and two undersized cross courts. Seating will be provided for 400-500 on telescoping bleachers. The gym is situated such that it is easily accessed by 7th and 8th graders.
5. A Physical Conditioning room will be added to replace an existing facility housed on the mezzanine of the main gym. This has been cited as an unsafe and impractical arrangement and is a high priority for relocation.

Remodeling:

The remodeling consists of some space alteration, but also includes improvements to the physical plant finishes and systems.

1. The space formerly occupied by the administrative suite, related corridor, other miscellaneous spaces will be converted into a computer lab that would service the entire building, a divisible multipurpose large group instruction room, three Learning Disabilities Resource rooms, a 7th/8th grade planning room, and the technology center.
2. The project will include air conditioning of the entire building except for the industrial technology spaces and the gym/locker room spaces. There are only a few interior spaces currently air conditioned.
3. The current cafeteria and corridors will receive new paint and ceilings. New vinyl tile flooring will also be provided in the cafeteria. The goal is to bring these spaces into good repair and to provide visual continuity from the addition to the existing building.
4. The two high school science rooms will be upgraded with new casework and technology to bring it to current standard.
5. The media center will be upgraded with new furniture and technology to bring it to current standard.
6. Various electrical, communications, and security systems will be brought up to current standard.
7. The existing main gym telescoping bleachers will be replaced. These are the original wood type and have been cited as unsafe by the school corporation insurance carrier.

Openings under the seats are large enough for small children to fall through. Railings do not meet current code standards. Replacing these is a high priority for safety of the building occupants.

Summary:

The Northeastern Wayne school board and administration have made it a high priority to provide an improved facility that meets the real needs of the school corporation while staying within the confines of a tax rate equal to their current rate. Every effort was made to explore options and to set priorities. The proposed project successfully combines these into a solid solution that serves the students and community without undue burden.

Comments: The Superintendent spoke about the project. Northeastern Jr./Sr. High School was built in 1967 and was a consolidation of four small townships in the northeastern quadrant of Wayne County. Northeastern Elementary School was built in 1983 and it is the only other school building in the corporation. Both of the facilities serve about 600 students and share the same campus separated by a football field. The same buses and routes serve both buildings. The major debt service expenditures have been allocated for Northeastern Elementary for the past 20 years and those bonds are about to pay off. Northeastern Jr./Sr. High School is a sound structure with a good roof maintenance program and no major structural issues exist with the current building. There has been no major renovation of Northeastern Jr./Sr. High School since 1967 with only minor upgrades and general maintenance expenditures from the Capital Projects fund in the interim. Many things have occurred since the facility was built that need to be addressed. The Title IX requirements have increased the girls' involvement in extracurricular activities. There has been an explosion of special education legislation, rules and requirements over the years. The advances in technology have changed it from a novelty to a necessity. The use of facilities has increased in the number of days per year and the number of hours per day. Instructional strategies have changed utilizing less lecture and seat work to more hands on and collaborative approach. Professional development and collaboration of teams of teachers and paraprofessionals have increased demands on space. Most families now live and work in air conditioning and the use of buildings in the summer has increased dramatically. There is currently no air conditioning at the facility. The building is used more and school starts earlier than in the past. Building security continues to require more preventative measures and there are more visitors during the day. Staffing has increased to respond to requirements of special education, increased graduation requirements and specialists such as technology personnel and nurses. The unpredictability of how space will be used requires more flexible types of designs. There is currently no capability in the facility for large group instruction. Obsolete equipment and structures need to be upgraded, such as science labs, the bleachers in the gymnasium and the cafeteria floor. Officials began planning for this project in 2004 since the elementary school debt is nearly paid and the favorable interest rates make this a good time to address needs with the least impact on the taxpayer.

Mr. Elizondo spoke about the tax impact of the project. The other debt will be paid off in 2009 and this new debt fits in behind it. Officials presented a \$0.36 tax rate impact to the community. There is a standard amortization after the old debt is paid. The community group requested a larger project, but the school board scaled it back to keep the debt at the current level.

The school board member continued the discussion. Decisions about what has the highest priorities were made using a community advisory group comprised of two board members, building administrators and teachers, the curriculum director, the transportation/maintenance director, superintendent, parents, sheriff department representative, community members from various occupational backgrounds and retirees. Officials involved individuals from all four townships. The meetings were held in the fall and winter of the 2004-2005 school year to hear input, revise tentative plans and arrive at a consensus about the priorities that should drive this renovation project. They came up with three plans then reduced it to what the community could afford.

The Superintendent continued the discussion. No opposition has developed regarding this project. Many patrons were involved in the Community Advisory Group, representing many facets of the community. The school board meetings are held twice each month and no one has attended to voice any concerns. The 1028 hearing held in March 2005 was attended by only one patron, who was supportive of the project but only wanted to make certain the gymnasium was constructed to reduce unnecessary noise. There was no remonstrance effort mounted, nor any discussion about any kind of opposition. The public hearings held earlier this year regarding year-round school and the form of the lease generated no concerns. The petitions circulated for the holding corporation lease method of financing generated no opposition.

The architect reviewed the building plans. The addition will include an administrative area, special education, an auxiliary gymnasium and a band room. This allows them to move the administrative offices to the front of the building. The addition creates a middle school separate from the high school. The renovation will create a media center and improve the science labs. The project also includes the installation of air conditioning and upgrades to the electrical system to allow for improved technology.

The Superintendent continued the discussion. Officials would like to get to mobile computer labs. The major goal is to create a middle school within the facility. They have a team of teachers for the 7th grade and another for the 8th grade. This facility would assist with that program.

Ms. Bond asked if the elementary school was a K-6 facility and the Superintendent said yes.

Mr. Barnes asked if they segregate and not share the teaching staff between the middle and high school level. The Superintendent said yes for the core classes, but the exploratory classes may be handled by high school teachers for the middle school students.

Mr. Bowen questioned the cost per square foot listed on the hearing information sheet. He had calculated approximately \$77 per square foot and the hearing information sheet reports \$134 per square foot. The architect said it was not a simple calculation due to the nature of the project.

Mr. Nemeth asked if an amortization schedule was included with the information submitted and officials replied yes. Mr. Nemeth asked if the school board vote at the lease hearing was unanimous and the Superintendent replied yes. Mr. Nemeth asked if officials planned to utilize the services of a clerk of the works. The Superintendent said they were not sure yet. Officials

are still interviewing firms, but they may have the architect handle those functions. Mr. Nemeth asked for background on the technology costs of this project, which seemed high. The Superintendent said a study on technology needs was completed by an outside firm and that is where those figures were derived. Mr. Elizondo noted equipment lists were submitted, however those lists are still being compiled.

Mr. Bronnert asked about the type of air conditioning system to be installed. The architect explained the type of system and noted the pre-cast structure was not conducive to duct work. Mr. Bronnert asked if energy savings possible for this project. The architect said a heat pump was possible, but it probably would be a univentilator.

Mr. Barrow asked if six classrooms were being added to the junior high school. The architect said there were five being added and they would pick up some space from the old administrative office area. Mr. Barrow asked if the new auxiliary gymnasium was in addition to the primary gymnasium. The Superintendent said yes and it would be used for junior high school physical education. It would also be used for large group activities and evening practices. It is not meant to be a full size gym and would have seating on one side only. Mr. Barrow asked about the enrollment of the district. The Superintendent said they expect it to be stable as no large developments are planned in the area. Mr. Barrow said he felt the plan did not allow for future classroom expansion with the way the new gymnasium was being added. Mr. Barrow asked if there would be a tax rate impact for this project since the old debt does not pay off until 2009. Mr. Elizondo said the current debt is phasing out and they expect no rate impact in 2007.

Ms. Bond questioned the negative GO bond limit listed on page 11 of the hearing information sheet. Mr. Elizondo explained they issued pension bonds which eliminated all of their GO bond capacity and more.

Mr. Bronnert said a 25 year term seemed like a long time for a project of \$11 million. Mr. Elizondo said the school board had many questions on the payment structure. School officials hope there will be no more building needs until this debt is paid. Mr. Bronnert asked if they are willing to pay the additional interest that comes with a longer term. The school board member said they felt this was the best option to limit the impact on taxpayers.

Motion: Mr. Bowen made a motion to approve a lease rental agreement with maximum annual payments of \$1,100,000 for 25 years. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried 5-1. Mr. Barrow cast the dissenting vote.

Linton-Stockton School Corporation, Greene County: Officials requested approval of a lease rental agreement with maximum annual payments of \$262,000 for 11 years. Total project costs are \$1,900,000. The tax rate impact of the project is \$0.13 with no new facility appeal planned. The common construction wage information was in order. There was no application for a petition and remonstrance process.

Present for the hearing was Ronald Bush, Superintendent; David Wimmer, Hilliard Lyons and Jeff Qualkinbush, Barnes & Thornburg.

Project: The junior high school facility is a combination of four different facilities. The oldest portion of the structure is a gymnasium that was built in 1927. The junior high classrooms were built around the structure in 1970. The classrooms were built on three sides of the gym. In 1988 a vocational area was built on the fourth side totally encompassing the 1927 gymnasium. The roofs on all these buildings are ballasted rubber and the condition has deteriorated to the point that we have had to temporarily cover some areas with sheets of plastic. The past year we have had discussions concerning the replacement of the junior high classrooms with a new building. The debt of the high school, which was completed in 2000, has not made it a popular item for discussion, when talking about adding considerably more debt. The decision was made to address the immediate needs of replacing the roofs on the junior high complex, which includes all of the attached buildings. The roofs being replaced range from 17-25 years old and all are requiring constant repair work. We are bidding the project with two different roof materials. The bids for polyvinyl roofing and an EPDM rubberized roof will be compared.

The other immediate need we currently have is the replacement of metal bleachers at our high school field, which have been determined by our insurance company to be unsafe to occupy. The bleachers have inadequate hand rails, no aisles for getting to seats, 18-inch openings where people could fall through and a structure that is over 60 years old that has bent and rusted away metal supports. These bleachers were scheduled for replacement in the high school building project, but were removed from consideration to save money. We determined we could no longer NOT address this safety issue and we are proposing replacing to make them both handicap accessible and safer, with all aluminum structures that have totally enclosed seating areas.

Comments: The Superintendent spoke about the project. This project grew out of a building analysis performed in 2003-2004. The study determined needs at all facilities except the high school, but the list was reduced to those most needing attention. Officials will look at two types of roofing materials and determine which is most cost effective. The bleachers at the high school field are dangerous and need to be replaced. No one has spoken in opposition to this project. The school corporation will lease the middle school from a local building corporation who will issue bonds of \$1.9 million. The term of the lease is 11 years to reduce the cost of the debt service. The maximum tax rate impact is approximately \$0.13.

Ms. Bond asked for an explanation of ballasted rubber. Mr. Bowen said it is a roof that has gravel on top of it. The Superintendent said this makes it difficult to locate leaks in the roof and this project will replace it.

Mr. Bronnert asked why officials were not seeking a general obligation bond instead. The Superintendent said a previous pension bond consumed their bonding capacity.

Mr. Barrow asked if the high school bleachers were a part of an earlier project. Mr. Qualkinbush said they were part of a project in 1987 of \$13 million that was defeated by a remonstrance. A later project of \$10 million did not include this bleacher replacement.

Mr. Nemeth asked if this takes care of any long-term project needs. The Superintendent said the roof would, but there are other building needs to address. As bonds pay off on the high school

project, officials will look at other needs in the district. A portion of the high school was constructed in 1927. Mr. Nemeth asked if officials are considering a new building and the Superintendent said yes, but they are limited by cost now. Mr. Nemeth noted that some fees higher than the control board usually sees with projects. He specifically noted the extended architect fees. Mr. Qualkinbush replied that the school staff is small and no one has construction background. Since the project is so small, they felt a construction manager was not necessary.

Mr. Barnes asked if someone would come in and oversee the project. School officials replied the roof project will takes 7 to 8 months to complete and it cannot be done over the winter.

Mr. Bowen asked if the person would be scheduled at the site all of the time. The Superintendent said they would be there as needed, but probably on a weekly basis. Mr. Qualkinbush said he would send an explanation of the extended services contract to the DLGF.

Mr. Barnes noted the school district is works for has hired a maintenance director with a six month contract on a prior project. They paid them \$75,000 plus travel expenses and were at the site daily.

Motion: Mr. Barnes made a motion to approve a lease rental agreement with maximum annual payments of \$262,000 for 11 years. Mr. Nemeth seconded the motion, which favorably carried 6-0.

Elkhart Community Schools, Elkhart County: Officials requested a general obligation bond issue in the amount of \$5,650,000. Total project costs are \$6,200,000 with \$550,000 from the Capital Projects fund. The tax rate impact of the project is \$0.04 and no new facility appeal rate impact reported on the hearing information sheet. The term of the bond is ten years. The common wage scale was passed with the representatives of the County Commissioners and the awarding agency absent. There was no application for a petition and remonstrance process.

Present for the hearing was Mark Mow, Superintendent; Doug Hasler, Business Manager; Bill Kaufman, Speer Financial and Sam Thompson, Barnes & Thornburg.

Project: Central High School lacks sufficient space to safely meet the existing and anticipated future demand for parking and traffic flow around the Central High School grounds. The main parking area for students attending Central is currently constrained by the location of tennis courts, a softball field, and a junior varsity baseball field on the eastern boundary of the parking area. In order to expand the size of the main student parking area to include a sufficient number of parking spaces, and to allow for a reconfiguration of traffic flow, it is necessary to shift the tennis courts, softball field, and junior varsity baseball field away from their current locations.

Through the Central Site Improvement (“CSI”) Project, Elkhart Community Schools proposes to do the following:

(1) Expand the size of the existing main parking area located to the east of the Central High School building.

- (2) Shift the tennis courts from their current location to a site currently occupied by Rice School (not currently in use) and the soccer field which are located on the grounds of Central High School.
- (3) Shift the softball field from its current location to a site on the former Federal Paperboard Property (“FPBP”) which was acquired by the Elkhart Community Schools in 2002, and is located to the west of the Central High School building.
- (4) Shift the junior varsity baseball field from its current location to a site currently utilized for the varsity baseball field.
- (5) Shift the soccer field from its current location to a site at FPBP.
- (6) Shift the current varsity baseball field to a site at FPBP.
- (7) Locate a junior varsity softball field, and a junior varsity/practice soccer field at FPBP.
- (8) Develop a designated band practice area on a site owned by the Elkhart Community Schools, but not currently in use.

A number of the CSI Project elements described above involve the shifting of location of athletic fields to the former Federal Paperboard Property. FPBP is located west of the Central High School building, across the Elkhart River. Access to FPBP will be via an entrance located off of Blazer Boulevard, and, at a future time, via a pedestrian bridge connecting with the main Central High School grounds.

At one time, the FPBP property served as the location for a paper manufacturer. Manufacturing operations at FPBP were closed down, and the property was not in use at the time Elkhart Community Schools acquired the property. Given the needs evident at Central High School for additional parking, and the relocation of athletic fields, Elkhart Community Schools acquired FPBP in 2002. This purchase was financed through a general obligation bond issue. That bond issue provided for the purchase of FPBP, the limited site development of FPBP (demolition of manufacturing structure, and securing the site), and the development of a football field at Memorial High School. The relocation of various athletic fields as required to expand the main student parking area is made possible as a result of the purchase of FPBP by Elkhart Schools in 2002. Further, given its location (across the Elkhart River from Central High School), FPBP is not suitable for any other school purpose, such as the construction of a classroom structure.

Through the proposed CSI Project, Elkhart Community Schools will accomplish the following:

- (1) Improve the safety of students, staff, and community members by providing sufficient space for parking and traffic flow at Central High School.
- (2) Improve physical education and athletic opportunities for Central students through the development of athletic areas at FPBP.
- (3) Improve the opportunities available to Central students who participate in marching band, a co-curricular program through the development of a designated band practice area.

Comments: The Superintendent spoke about the project. This project is designed to accomplish two things, to address safety concerns at the high school, specifically traffic flow issues. The second is the relocation of athletic fields to land adjacent to the high school, which was acquired in 2002. The Central site is limited in size and this is a unique project. They have spent 95% of funds from previous building projects on educational spaces. The facilities plan is updated each

year. The long range plan allows for effective communication with the public. The school district has been pretty conservative with past building projects. There is one gymnasium to cover varsity and junior varsity events that has been well maintained and demonstrates the past practice of the district.

The Business Manager continued the discussion. The Central staff has struggled for many years to manage traffic flow at the facility. There are some students that are unable to obtain a parking permit and must park elsewhere. The staff manages traffic flow to allow buses to leave the facility. They have managed to avoid any tragic circumstances so far. There is limited space currently to accommodate parking and traffic flow. Officials feel relocating the current tennis, softball, baseball and soccer fields would allow for adequate parking and traffic flow areas near the school. The Business Manager reviewed the campus site plan drawing. The students must cross a heavily traveled street to access one parking lot. They will move the lighting from the current varsity baseball field to the new one. The old varsity baseball field would become a junior varsity field. They purchased the property and demolished the structures on it through a prior bond issue. They will add a junior varsity softball field and a junior varsity soccer field at the new site. The history of the property was that of a manufacturing site. School officials had been interested in the site for some time. Discussions began in the mid 1990's to purchase the land and it was bought in 2004. The location of the Elkhart River limits the possibility of expansion of the Central site. A pedestrian bridge is a possibility for the future. No other use for that land is planned. This project will address a longstanding need for parking and space to control traffic flow. The facility is used heavily, including use by the community. This has been in the planning stage for 7 to 8 years as they have been addressing classroom needs. The steady growth in the ADM will cause a need for a future instructional project, but officials feel this safety issue is now a priority.

Mr. Barnes asked if the plans shown earlier reflect where athletic fields are now. The Business Manager said there are some outlines to reflect where some fields sit currently. He noted the Rice property that is on the design drawing is the oldest property owned by the school district. The cost to update this facility would be \$2 million. The last use of this facility was for the adult education program. Mr. Barnes asked if school officials had an estimated cost for a pedestrian bridge. The Business Manager said they did not have an estimate and it is not a part of this project. Mr. Barnes noted that the county has the ability to levy for a Major Bridge fund that school officials may want to check into as a possibility. Mr. Barnes asked how officials would explain to the Governor that this project is not what he referred to as excessive. The Superintendent said they have been looking at this project for some time. Officials have discussed that issue with parents and the school board. Since they have a long range facility plan in place, they have addressed the instructional needs of the school district. The school board felt this project needed to be done to address safety issues. Mr. Barnes asked if there would be additional athletic facilities upon completion of this project. The Superintendent said they are mainly just moving the fields and are not looking to expand. There will be an additional practice field after this project is done. Mr. Barnes asked if the seating capacity would increase due to this project. The Superintendent said they are replacing bleachers and the capacity may increase slightly, but they are not looking to expand. The stadium is not going to be covered. The Business Manager also pointed out on the schematic drawing an area for band practice that would also be used during the school day.

Mr. Nemeth asked if the band practice area was covered with asphalt. The Business Manager said it would be asphalt and would be fenced and lighted. He said this project was planned earlier, but officials waited until the guidance was released to proceed. There is no other use for this property than what they had planned. They have the lowest school tax rate in Elkhart County. Officials could have included this project at the time they purchased the land, but they wanted to limit the tax rate impact on taxpayers.

Mr. Bowen asked if there would be student activity across the river. The Superintendent said the physical education classes do use some of the fields. Mr. Bowen asked how students would get there. The Superintendent said they would walk across the current bridge. Mr. Bowen asked if officials considered putting the parking on that site and saving the athletic fields. The Superintendent said that was not considered. The Business Manager said they already have students parking across a busy street and are concerned about safety. Mr. Bowen asked if there was a building on the site currently and school officials said it was demolished when the land was purchased. Mr. Bowen asked if the Rice building was to be demolished and the Business Manager said the 33,480 square feet of demolition is listed on page 7 of the hearing information sheet. Mr. Bowen asked if American Park is a city park and the Business Manager replied yes. Mr. Bowen asked if the city utilizes the school's athletic fields. The Business Manager said they are open to community use. They do not foresee direct use from American Park because the facility will be fenced. They have discussed with city officials the ability to develop the river area as well as ways to slow traffic. Mr. Bowen asked if demolition costs were included in the total construction cost figure and the Business Manager replied yes. Mr. Bowen asked why no one from the school corporation was on the common wage committee. The Superintendent said the facility manager was on the committee.

Mr. Nemeth asked about the community support of the project. The Business Manager said the same taxpayer attended both meetings and was not opposed to the project, just the tax implications. Everyone else has been supportive of the project. Mr. Nemeth asked about the academic performance of the students in the district. The Superintendent said they are not where they want to be. They are a large urban district and are experiencing an influx of non-English speaking students with 20% of the student population not English as a first language. Officials have engaged a firm to study their district and provide consultation. They are seeing significant improvement of student performance at some facilities and are beginning to close the achievement gap at facilities. There is a lot of emphasis on professional development in the district. Mr. Nemeth asked if there are a lot of accidents in the area. The Superintendent said there have been a number of scrapes and bumps to vehicles, particularly in the parking lot. The staff has helped avoid anything serious on the street, but this is not a good situation.

Ms. Bond asked how many students were at this facility and school officials said 1,800.

Mr. Barrow asked if there are no plans for a bridge. The Business Manager said there is not in this plan. Officials plan for one in the future, but it would only be a pedestrian bridge. Mr. Barrow asked if there are any other bridges and the Superintendent said there is only one to access the park.

Ms. Bond asked about American Park. The Business Manager said it is green space mainly with some walking paths. There are no playgrounds or swimming pool at this park.

Mr. Barrow asked if this was the original plan for the property when it was acquired. The Superintendent said yes, they made that clear at the time it was purchased.

Motion: Mr. Barnes made a motion to approve a general obligation bond issue in the amount of \$5,650,000 for a term of 10 years. Mr. Bronnert seconded the motion, which carried 5-1. Mr. Barrow cast the dissenting vote.

Adjournment: There was no further business to discuss and the meeting was adjourned.